

WASHINGTON EVENING STAR

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Press Security Leaks Seen Nil

By the Associated Press

A White House spokesman says virtually no information harmful to the Nation's security has been published since President Kennedy spoke out on the subject last April.

At that time Mr. Kennedy suggested in a speech to the Newspaper Publishers Association that newspapers should consider not only whether a story was news but also whether its publication was in the interest of national security.

Ten days later a group of news executives met with Mr. Kennedy at the White House to discuss the subject and it was announced another meeting would be held in a few months.

Asked yesterday what had happened, White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger said little but discussion has gone on since then.

In the first place, Mr. Salinger said, Mr. Kennedy "did not advocate self-censorship." He added:

"What the President was throwing out to the publishers was a very very real problem and that is the publication . . . in our newspapers, and through the radio and television, of information which is of value to the enemy.

"And he was trying to throw the subject open to discussion. As a result of that speech . . . these editors did come down, and we proposed to them what we thought was a rather worth while idea for getting at this problem.

"Unfortunately, the editors and publishers gathered there did not agree with us that this plan was any good. So there is virtually nothing that's happened since then except a great deal of discussion.

"I think that it can be said that since that speech there has been virtually none of this type of information published."

He added that he did not know whether this was a good idea or not.